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and for the investigation of scientific methods of highway construction, following the lead, in this last respect, of the State of Massachusetts.

T. A. JAGGAR, JR.

PETROGRAPHY.

Granites and Diabases. — Milch's¹ article on the granitic rocks of the Riesengebirge and Bodmer-Beder's² paper on the olivin diabase from the Plessurgebirge in the Grisons are monographic presentations of the subjects they discuss. In the first, the author describes in great detail, and with a wealth of chemical analyses, the well-known granite of the Riesengebirge, together with its basic and acid phases and the concretions they contain. Chemically, the rock is a mixture of Rosenbusch's granitic and dioritic magmas. The acid and basic phases are regarded as differentiation products of the magma that yielded the normal rock. Even the dike granites and the pegmatites of the district are looked upon as "Schlieren" in the granitic magma, formed by the solidification of the mother liquor left after the greater portion of the magma had crystallized. The basic phases of the rock often present the features of kersantites. They appear as concretions in the granite and as dark "Schlieren" traversing it.

The diabases of the Plessurgebirge in the neighborhood of Chur occur as stocks, as horizontal sheets, and as dikes in the predominant limestone. In the center of the stocks its structure is granular; nearer the peripheries of the masses it is ophitic, and on the peripheries it is vitrophyric. Varioles and vacuoles are present as contact phenomena. The former are spherulites of radial plagioclase, and the latter amygdaloidal cavities that have been filled with albite, quartz, and calcite. The rocks present no unusual features, but the paper is worth examination because of its thoroughness in describing and picturing each structural form of the rock investigated and of its constituents.

Granitic Oceanic Islands and the Nature of Laterite. — The small group of tropical oceanic islands, known as the Seychelles, are noteworthy from the fact that they are neither of coral nor of volcanic origin, but are granitic in character. Bauer³ reports that they consist principally of granites, and syenites cut by dikes and covered

¹ *Neues Jahrb. f. Min.*, Bd. xii, p. 115.

² *Ibid.*, p. 238.

³ *Neues Jahrb. f. Min.*, etc. Bd. ii (1898), p. 163.